

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An umbilical cord clamp comprising:
 a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration
having rear end portions associated at an apex and having free forward end portions
normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other for
clamping an umbilical cord between the arms;
10 a grasping portion that is disposed on each arm transversely to the length
thereof and sufficiently sized and shaped to receive a finger or tool so as to facilitate
grasping and closing of the clamp; and
 a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed.
- 15 2. The clamp of claim 1, wherein the rear end portions are joined by an
integral hinge.
3. The clamp of claim 1, wherein the locking portion comprises:
 a flexible tongue at the forward end of one of the arms that projects towards
20 the other arm in the general direction of closing movement of the arm; and
 a recess at the forward end of the other arm for receiving the tongue and
having a pair of transversely-spaced projections extending into the recess from opposite
sides thereof,
 wherein the tongue has a tip portion and the projections define a pair of
25 forwardly sloping ramp surfaces engagable with the tip portion for flexing the tongue
forwardly as the arms are urged together, the tongue having a pair of lateral notches
adjacent the tip portion for receiving the pair of projections when the tip portion has cleared
the ramp surfaces and the clamp is fully closed.
- 30 4. The clamp of claim 3, wherein the projections of the other arm have
undersurfaces that slope forwardly and away from the one arm.
5. The clamp of claim 3, wherein the projections extend forwardly a

distance greater than the thickness of the tongue, the projections extending forwardly through the notches beyond the tongue when the clamp is closed.

5 6. The clamp of claim 3, wherein the tip portion has rounded rear edges when viewed in transverse section.

 7. The clamp of claim 3, wherein the recess opens forwardly and has a width greater than the width of the tongue, and wherein the sides of the recess are slidably engagable with the tongue for guiding the same into locking position as the clamp is closed.

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 8. The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion comprises a single portion integrally formed with at least the arms of the clamp.

 9. The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is at least about two-thirds of the distance from the rear end portion to the free forward end.

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 10. The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is outwardly concave so as to facilitate receiving the finger or tool being used to grasp the clamp.

 11. The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is at least 1.5 times as wide as a width of the arm and has a length of at least about 0.5 cm.

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 12. An umbilical cord clamp comprising:

 a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration having rear end portions joined together at the apex thereof and having free forward end portions normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other for clamping an umbilical cord between the arms;

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 a channel that extends substantially along the length of at least one arm to facilitate the escape of fluid therefrom when the clamp is closed; and

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 a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed.

 13. The clamp of claim 12, wherein a channel extends substantially along the length of each arm.

14. The clamp of claim 12, wherein the channel has a width of about 1/4 to 1/2 of a width of each arm.

5 15. The clamp of claim 12, wherein the depth of the channel increases toward each open end.

10 16. The clamp of claim 12, wherein the locking portion is at the free forward ends of the arms, a lateral groove is disposed between the teeth and the tongue, and the channel is open to the lateral groove.

15 17. An umbilical cord clamp comprising:
a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration having rear end portions joined together at the apex thereof and having free forward end portions normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other for clamping an umbilical cord between the arms;
identification means for identifying the baby; and
a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed.

20 18. The clamp of claim 17, wherein the identification means is a color with blue being the preferred color for a boy and pink being the preferred color for a girl.

25 19. The clamp of claim 17, wherein the identification means is a color and at least a portion of the clamp or the entire clamp comprises the color.

20. The clamp of claim 19, wherein the color is visibly imbued within or painted upon the clamp.

30 21. The clamp of claim 17, wherein the identification means comprises alpha-numeric indicia or a bar code.

22. The clamp of claim 21, wherein the identification means further comprises a color.

23. A method of identifying a newborn baby which comprises applying the clamp of claim 17 and analyzing the identification means to determine the gender of the baby.

5 24. A method of identifying a newborn baby which comprises applying the clamp of claim 17 and analyzing the identification means to determine the mother of the newborn.

10 25. A method of identifying a newborn baby which comprises applying the clamp of claim 17 and analyzing the identification means to determine at least the date and time of birth of the baby.